

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1 – 3, 6, 7, 9 – 11, 14, 15, 17, 28, 35, 38, 39, 40 and 51 without prejudice.

Please substitute the following claims for the pending claims with the same number:

1. – 17. (canceled)

18. (currently amended) A computer readable storage medium containing instructions which when executed implement a system for retrieval of digital assets having metadata associated therewith, the medium comprising:

instructions for an interface for generating a plurality of metadata constraints, wherein each constraint sets at least one value for a metadata property, for modifying property values associated with the generated metadata constraints, and for selectively activating or de-activating the generated metadata constraints by respectively checking or un-checking checkboxes corresponding to the constraints, wherein each metadata constraint can be independently activated or de-activated without affecting the activation status and settings of the other metadata constraints;

a constraint lock processor for locking at least one metadata constraint so as to remain activated when other metadata constraints are activated or de-activated, or when other metadata constraint property values are modified;

instructions for a query processor for applying the activated metadata constraints in accordance with their respective property values; and

instructions for a display interface for viewing a result of said query processor.

19. (previously presented) The medium of claim **18** wherein metadata includes file system data.

20. (previously presented) The medium of claim **18** wherein metadata includes data assigned by a capture device.

21. (previously presented) The medium of claim **18** wherein metadata includes user assigned data.

22. (previously presented) The medium of claim **18** wherein the plurality of metadata constraints include at least one constraint on date and time metadata.

23. (previously presented) The medium of claim **18** wherein the plurality of metadata constraints include at least one constraint on category metadata.

24. (previously presented) The medium of claim **18** wherein the plurality of metadata constraints include at least one constraint on property metadata.

25. (previously presented) The medium of claim **18** wherein said interface is used for saving a group of at least one metadata constraint as a filter.

26. - 28. (canceled)

29. (currently amended) A method for retrieving digital assets having metadata associated therewith, comprising:

generating a plurality of metadata constraints, wherein each constraint sets one or more values for a metadata property;

selectively activating or de-activating the generated metadata constraints by respectively checking or un-checking checkboxes corresponding to the constraints, wherein each metadata constraint can be independently activated or de-activated without affecting the activation status and settings of the other metadata constraints;

modifying at least one property value associated with at least one generated metadata constraint;

locking at least one metadata constraint so as to remain activated when other metadata constraints are activated or de-activated, or when other metadata constraint property values are modified;

applying the activated metadata constraints in accordance with their respective property values; and

viewing a result of said applying.

30. (original) The method of claim **29** wherein metadata includes file system data.

31. (original) The method of claim **29** wherein metadata includes data assigned by a capture device.

32. (original) The method of claim **29** wherein metadata includes user assigned data.

33. (original) The method of claim **29** wherein the plurality of metadata constraints include at least one constraint on date and time metadata.

34. (original) The method of claim **29** wherein the plurality of metadata constraints include at least one constraint on category metadata.

35. (canceled)

36. (original) The method of claim 29 further comprising saving a group of at least one metadata constraint as a filter.

37. – 40. (canceled)

41. (currently amended) A computer readable storage medium containing instructions which when executed implement a system for operation and visualization of multiple content filters, comprising:

instructions for a plurality of filter interfaces for setting parameters of corresponding content filters that filter a catalog of assets, each content filter having an activation status of being in an active or inactive state and having a lock status of being in a locked or an unlocked state, and each filter interface having a display generator for rendering a user interface display, wherein at least one such user interface display for a content filter is ~~dependent upon the activation states of the~~ contains content that is filtered according to one or more other content filters, and wherein (i) an unlocked content filter is automatically de-activated when another content filter is activated or modified, and (ii) a locked content filter is not automatically de-activated when another content filter is activated or modified; and

instructions for an activation processor for setting and clearing the activation status of at least one content filter; and

instructions for a lock processor for setting and clearing the lock status of at least one content filter.

42. (previously presented) The medium of claim 41 wherein at least one user interface display contains at least one alphanumeric string dependent upon the lock status of another content filter.

43. (currently amended) The medium of claim [41] 42 wherein the alphanumeric string is a statistic about the catalog of assets filtered according to locked content filters.

44. (previously presented) The medium of claim 41 wherein parameters of the content filters are set in a sequential order, and wherein said lock processor locks previously set content filters.

45. (previously presented) The medium of claim 41 wherein parameters of the content filters are set in a sequential order, and wherein said lock processor unlocks previously set content filters.

46. (currently amended) A method for operation and visualization of multiple content filters, comprising:

providing a plurality of filter interfaces for setting parameters of corresponding content filters that filter a catalog of assets, each content filter having an activation status of being in an active or inactive state and having a lock status of being in a locked or an unlocked state;

setting and clearing the activation status of at least one content filter;

setting and clearing the lock status of at least one content filter; and

rendering a user interface display for a content filter, that ~~is dependent upon the activation states of the~~ contains content that is filtered according to one or more other content filters, and wherein (i) an unlocked content filter is automatically de-activated when another content filter is activated or modified, and (ii) a locked content filter is not automatically de-activated when another content filter is activated or modified.

47. (original) The method of claim **46** wherein said rendering generates a user interface display that contains at least one alphanumeric string dependent upon the lock status of another content filter.

48. (currently amended) The method of claim **[46] 47** wherein the alphanumeric string is a statistic about the catalog of assets filtered according to locked content filters.

49. (original) The method of claim **46** further comprising setting parameters of the content filters in a sequential order, and wherein said setting the lock status of at least one content filter, locks previously set content filters.

50. (original) The method of claim **46** further comprising setting parameters of the content filters in a sequential order, and wherein said setting the lock status of at least one content filter, unlocks previously set content filters.

51. (canceled)